At the end of the year the amount in the Police Provident Fund was Rs. 2,11,507. The balance of the Police Fund was Rs. 11,563/-, the sum of Rs. 5,744/- was paid out in loans to Police and Naturs, most of the payments being for building or repairing houses.

Crimes and Accidents. There was a slight increase in the number of serious crimes which is thought to be partly due to the large influx of foreigners, especially Omanis, during recent years.

On 25th January, 1953, some Omanis who were living in the brothel area, missed one of their party, Abdulla bin Salim. They went to his house which was found to be locked. One of them climbed over the wall and on entering the house he found Abdulla with his throat cut. The victim was a bad character, a procurer in the brothel area. Police investigations produced no evidence to justify a prosecution.

On 13th December, 1952, a youth named Abdul Husain bin Isa, who worked as a car cleaner and who habitually slept in a garage in Manama, was found by the owner of the garage, when he came to take out his car, lying dead on his bed with a wound in his back and signs of having been throttled. The garage doors were locked, one key was in the possession of the youth and the owner of the garage had another key. The garage, however, could have been entered by an inner door. There appeared to be no motive for the murder as the victim was not of the type to be associated with an affair of sex. The Police arrested the owner of the garage and his brother and laid a charge of murder against them in the Bahrain Court. The family of the murdered man were insistent that he had been murdered by the owners of tne garage. The case was heard and the accused were acquitted owing to lack of evidence.

On 17th May, 1953, one Abdul Husain bin Haji Sulman bin Khalaf, a local Bahraini, was walking in a lane near his house, at night. His brother, Ibrahim, came on him from behind and stabbed him twice with a knife. He was seriously injured but after hospital treatment he recovered. The reason for the attack was a family quarrel. The attacker was sentenced to four years imprisonment with hard labour.

On 7th November, 1952, two men were cleaning their hands with petrol at one of the garages in Manama. Another man lit a match which ignited the petrol causing serious burns to both of the men one of whom subsequently died in hospital.

An Omani came from Dubai and reported to the Police that two years before his son, aged 18, who was working in a garage in Bahrain, died from burns. It was established that the boy had died in hospital as a result of burns but no evidence was forthcoming about the cause of the burns.

A man who was arrested for pickpocketing attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor blade, in the Police Station.

There were two deaths from electrocution. A boy of 12 years caught hold of an electric wire in a shop and was killed, and a man climbed an electric standard, in order to catch birds, touched a live wire and was killed immediately.

Five cases of accidental drowning occurred, two men were lost when their small fishing craft capsized, an old man, reputed to be nearly 100 years old, fell into the sea from a fishing boat during stormy weather off Barbar and two children were drowned on the shore west of Manama town. In none of these cases was there any suggestion of foul play.

On 23rd August, 1953, some boys were out shooting on the shore near Jasrah. A shot from the gun of Mohamed Ahmed Al Ghatam entered the neck of one Ibrahim bin Mohamed Al Khalifah and killed him. The owner of the gun immediately left Bahrain. His father was ordered to pay Rs. 5000 to the relatives of the victim and to remove himself from Jasrah and an order was passed against the son forbidding him to return to Bahrain for an indefinite period. The families were related and were branches of the Ruling Family.

There were 280 cases of theft reported to the Police against 303 cases in 1371. Of these cases 55 were presented in Court, 133 cases were undetected and 92 cases were not proceeded with for lack of evidence. Most of the cases were pickpocketing and thefts of clothes.

674 The following were some of the more serious cases of theft ; clothing and money were stolen from people staying in a local hotel in the bazaar, money was stolen from a house in Rafaa and a radio and carpet was stolen from the house of a member of the American Mission. In all these cases the thieves were caught and the stolen property was recovered. In 11 other cases thefts of money, jewellery, wearing apparel, etc., were reported to the Police. In some instances persons were prosecuted for theft, but acquitted and in other cases no evidence was obtained.

Five Pakistanis were prosecuted for "bilking" shop keepers.

674 273 Fewer persons than in the previous year were convicted for contravention of liquor and drug regulations, this does not, however, indicate any decrease in the habit of drinking which among certain classes is becoming almost universal. Altogether 24 persons were prosecuted for distilling, selling and being in possession of liquor and for dealing in hashish and opium.

548 276 In one case a Palestinian was found to be in possession of 15 lbs. of opium. There is every reason to believe that an active trade in opium is carried on through Bahrain to the West. It is brought to Bahrain from Persia and India via the Trucial Coast and then conveyed on to ships in the harbour which carry it to Europe or the United States.

731 **Fires.** There were a number of serious fires during the year in which many people lost their barasti houses and their possessions. Most of the fires were caused by pressure stoves or lamps which ignited Saaf (palm branch) houses. There were no cases of arson.

The most serious fire was in the Telegraph area where 75 houses were completely destroyed together with their contents. A very strong wind fanned the fire which was only prevented from spreading over another area of barasti houses by wide roads on three sides of the site. This was one of the worst fires known in Bahrain. It appears to have been caused by an old blind man who knocked over a fire or a lamp in his house which lit the palm branch walls of the building. No lives were lost. In the village of Mahooz 55 houses were destroyed in one fire a few of these houses had mud and stone walls and matting roofs. In other fires, some of them in Manama and some in the villages, 17, 12, 15 and 14 houses were destroyed. In none of these fires was there any loss of life. In a fire in a launch, anchored off Manama, one man lost his life. More supplies of fire fighting equipment, hose pipe, etc., etc., which had been ordered in England were part of the cargo of a Strick Line ship which caught fire near Sitra and which burned for several days.

[368]

AGENCY COURT

RESULT OF PROSECUTIONS IN 1372

674

No.	Nature of Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. of persons accused.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of persons acquitted.	Remarks.
1	Causing Death by Rash or Negligent Act	1	1	1	—	
2	Theft	1	1	1	—	
3	Cheating	1	1	1	—	
4	Criminal breach of trust	2	2	2	—	
5	Use of criminal force and assault	1	1	—	1	
6	Liquor drinking and possession of	6	7	6	1	
7	Charas and Opium	1	2	1	1	
8	Affray	1	3	3	—	
		14	18	15	3	

NATIONALITIES :

British	1 person
Indian	3 persons
Pakistan	2 ,,
Palestine	1 ,,
Transjordan	1 person
Iran	10 persons
	18

674

THE BAHRAIN COURT

RESULTS OF PROSECUTIONS IN 1372

No.	Nature of Offence	No. of Cases.	No. of accused.	No. of convictions.	No. of persons acquitted.	Remarks.
1	Murder	1	2	—	2	
2	Attempted Murder	1	1	1	—	
3	Attempted Suicide	1	1	1	—	
4	Culpable Homicide	1	1	1	—	
5	Causing death by rash or negligent act	1	1	—	1	
6	Theft	50	76	53	23	
7	Attempted Theft	8	8	6	2	
8	Forgery	2	3	1	2	
9	Receiving Stolen Property	3	4	2	2	
10	Cheating	6	7	6	1	
11	Criminal Breach of Trust	11	16	6	10	
12	Use of Criminal Force and Assault	104	170	124	46	
13	Misappropriation	11	15	9	6	
14	Un-natural Offence	11	11	9	2	
15	Adultery	13	15	7	8	
16	Public Nuisance	38	62	52	10	
17	Distilling Liquor	2	3	3	—	
18	Liquor Drinking and Possession of	6	6	5	1	
19	Charas and Opium	4	4	4	—	
20	Gambling	7	24	22	2	
21	Profiteering	4	5	2	3	
22	Affray	9	17	11	6	
23	Obstructing Public Servant	1	1	1	—	
24	Assault of Police	5	5	5	—	
25	Mischief by fire	2	3	2	1	
26	Mischief by cattle	2	2	2	—	
27	Offences affecting decency and morals	3	13	7	6	
28	Entering Bahrain without passport	8	43	32	11	
29	Begging	2	2	2	—	
		317	521	376	145	

NATIONALITIES :

Bahrain	354	persons
Iran	7	,,
Trucial Coast	108	,,
Muscat	22	,,
Saudi Arabia	19	,,
Kuwait	4	,,
Qatar	6	,,
Yemen	1	,,
	521	

The number of applications for driving licences increase each year. At present no less than fifty tests are taken each week. 494

Non-Traffic Offences. Sixteen persons were prosecuted in both Courts for non-traffic offences. These included four liquor offences, one of being in possession of hashish, and two cases of criminal Breach of Trust, etc. 674

Prison sentences and fines amounting to Rs. 2,525/- were imposed. The total fines in both Courts for all types of offences amounted to Rs. 22,421/-.

Traffic Section Strength. The Traffic Section Strength is one British Superintendent, three Arab Sub-Inspectors (the one temporarily attached), three N.C.O's and 41 men. 494

Superintendent Hyde was absent on U.K. leave from 10th June, 1953, till 2nd September, 1953.

Six traffic posts are maintained during daylight at Manama and Muharraq.

Transport. One Land Rover, seven motor cycles and two pedal cycles are allotted to the Traffic Department.

Traffic Department Revenue. Cash receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 125,928/1/-.

REGISTRATION RETURN—1372 493

	1371	1372
TOTAL NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN BAHRAIN ..	2,124	2,822
New vehicles registered during year	421	778
Private motor cars	941	1231
Taxi Cars	145	212
Private Buses	77	78
Taxi Buses	82	100
Private Lorries	293	390
Taxi Lorries	120	205
Pick-ups	204	274
Other Vehicles (Cranes, Tractors, Road Rollers, etc.) ..	103	144
Motor Cycles	159	188
Vehicles notified as "EXPORTED"	106	63
Vehicles notified as "IMPORTED"	119	292
Vehicles scrapped (by Police or by owners)	112	17
Pedal Cycles in Bahrain ((Registered)	4,690	5,278

DRIVING LICENCES AND TESTS 494

Number of Driving Licences issued during year	738
Number of Driving Tests during year	1,354
Number of Successful Applicants	523
Number of Failures	831
Number of Driving Licences issued on Production of Foreign Licence ..	215

701 625 suit them, they spoke no Arabic, and were regarded by the people of Bahrain as expensive foreign mercenaries; they were useless at ordinary police work, and the Indian Officers and N.C.O.'s caused constant trouble by incessant quarrels and intrigues. The Indians were enlisted for four years, but before this period had expired I began to enlist a force of local men as police, a project which I always strongly advocated. It was from this time that the present force was started, but the final transition was not completed until the end of 1932.

574 362 684 **Crime and Prostitution.** The number of serious crimes which are committed every year in Bahrain is small in comparison to the population, which is thought to be about 150,000. Usually about one or two cases of murder are dealt with by the police during the year, but it is possible that occasional murders take place which are not detected, especially murders of women and newly born children. Although in recent years Bahrain has progressed in many ways, there are still a number of Arabs living in Hedd and Muharraq who consider that they are justified in murdering their female relations if the women bring shame on the family. A few of the very old-fashioned Arabs even consider that because the Government does not ignore such murders it is encouraging immorality. The Kadis, however, although ultra conservative in their outlook, disapprove of men taking the law into their own hands and murdering women who misbehave. In some Arab countries the fear of punishment by death for immorality has a very salutary effect, but Bahrain, although described as an Arab state, has very little in common [162] with real Arab countries. The Baharna, who form about three quarters of the population, are not true Arabs, and the rest of the population includes all the nationalities who live around the Gulf. The only real Arabs in Bahrain are the Khalifah and a few families who came over with them from the mainland and a small number of members of mainland tribes who live almost entirely in Hedd, Muharraq, Budeya, and two or three small villages on the south coast.

[548] Immorality is undoubtedly increasing, but the increase in prostitution is not due to the Government but is a matter of supply and demand. During the last two years numbers of foreigners [164] earning good pay have come to Bahrain, usually without their families, from Persia, Iraq, and India, and this has undoubtedly caused an increase in prostitution. Venereal disease is rampant, and the proportion of persons suffering from it, especially in ophthalmic forms, is very high. The medical supervision of prostitutes would undoubtedly result in an improvement in the public health. This suggestion was discussed and approved by the Manamah Municipal Council some years ago, but it has not yet been possible to arrange the medical organisation to cope with this matter.

● 674 681 Most of the criminal cases which are dealt with by the police are cases of theft, assault, and immorality. Several important gangs of thieves have been rounded up during the last ten years. Some of these gangs were well provided with arms and had regular methods of disposing of stolen property in Bahrain or on the mainland. Foreigners, especially Hassawis, form the majority of the criminals. There are a number of inveterate thieves who spend the greater part of their lives in prison. Such persons, on the mainland, would be punished by cutting off of their hands and finally by decapitation. The punishments inflicted by the Bahrain courts are whippings, fines, and imprisonment, but imprisonment to many of these people is no hardship: the work is not hard, they are given better food than they would obtain themselves, and the only real punishment is being deprived of women.

273 276 **Drugs and Liquor.** Liquor and drugs, such as opium, are forbidden in Bahrain, but in spite of the severe penalties which are enforced by the Bahrain courts against persons contravening the liquor regulations, the habit of drinking liquor and smoking opium is, in my opinion, steadily increasing. Ten years ago very few people drank liquor, and the smoking of opium was entirely confined to foreigners, Persians, Indians, and Baluchis. To-day many of the younger Arabs have acquired a liking for spirits, partly because they have had opportunities for drinking while travelling abroad, and frequent cases have occurred in which Arabs have been found to be taking opium.

276 439 Opium is smuggled into Bahrain from Persia, usually in native crafts, but sometimes hidden in merchandise on the mail steamers. It varies in quality, most frequently it is in large lumps weighing four or five pounds, but sometimes it is in paper-covered sticks sealed up in bundles. It is very